

Palladium-Catalyzed Desulfitative Mizoroki-Heck Coupling Reactions of Sulfonyl Chlorides with Olefins in a Nitrile-functionalized Ionic Liquid.

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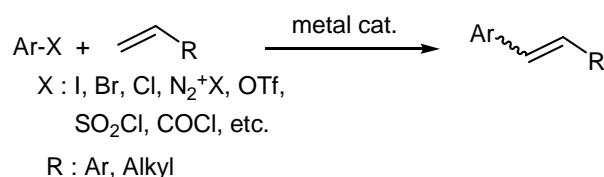
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Abstract: In our previous paper (*Chem. Eur. J.* **2005**, *11*, 2633), we have shown that aryl and alkenyl sulfonyl chlorides can be used in Heck-Mizoroki-type couplings with mono- and disubstituted olefins in the presence of palladium(0) or rhodium(I) catalysts. Here we show that these reactions can be conducted more effectively in a nitrile functionalized ionic liquid, viz. [C₃CNmim][Tf₂N]. Advantages include; (1) use of a cheap catalyst source, PdCl₂, (2) ability to handle the catalyst in air, (3) reduced reaction times, (4) elimination of phase transfer catalysts due to the high solubility of the inorganic base in the ionic liquid, and (5) facile recycling of the ionic liquid-palladium catalyst. The yields of coupling products remain in the same range as the reactions conducted in organic solvents. Palladium nanoparticles have been identified in the ionic liquid following the Heck-Mizoroki type coupling reactions which were characterized using transmission electron microscopy (TEM).

Key Words: Mizoroki-Heck reaction, Ionic liquids, Palladium, Sulfonyl chlorides, Nanoparticles.

Transition metal catalyzed C-C bond forming reactions are among the most useful and versatile methods in organic synthesis.^{1,2} In recent years, various methodologies have been developed, such as Mizoroki-Heck protocol, that permit the cross-coupling of a large variety of reactants (Scheme 1).²



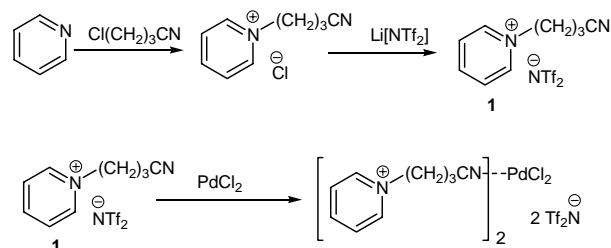
Scheme 1: Substrates for general Mizoroki-Heck-type reactions

The Mizoroki-Heck arylation of alkenes is of high synthetic utility,^{1,2} and aryl chlorides and alkenes can be coupled under decarbonylative conditions.³ We have shown that the readily available sulfonyl chlorides (RSO₂Cl, R = aryl, alkenyl, methallyl,⁴ benzyl) undergo desulfitative Stille and carbonylative Stille,⁵ Suzuki-Miyaura,⁶ Sonogashira-Hagihara⁷ and Negishi⁸ cross-coupling reactions and Mizoroki-Heck arylations.⁹ The sulfonyl chlorides are generally more reactive than corresponding bromides and chlorides.^{7,8,10} As far as we are aware, ionic liquids (ILs) have not been used in transi-

tion metal catalyzed reactions using sulfonyl chlorides as reactants.

In the last few years ionic liquids have proven to be highly useful solvents in catalysis and also in organic synthesis.¹¹ There are several reports on Stille,¹² Suzuki-Miyaura,¹³ Sonogashira-Hagihara,¹⁴ cross-coupling reactions and regioselective Heck arylations¹⁵ with aryl halides under ionic liquids. Various benefits have been noted including; (i) assists in the activation of the catalyst; (ii) improvement the stability of the catalyst; (iii) excellent immobilisation and recyclability; (iv) facilitate product isolation and (v) influence on the selectivity of the reaction.

Following our previous studies that have shown nitrile functionalized ionic liquids to be highly effective solvents for conducting various C-C cross coupling reactions,¹⁶ we selected *N*-butyronitrile pyridinium bis(trifluoromethylsulfonyl)-imide (IL **1**, Scheme 2) for the reactions described herein together with PdCl₂ (1 mol%), as the pre-catalyst since it can be handled in air and is comparatively cheap (this pre-catalyst, in IL **1** was as active as Herrmann's catalyst¹⁷ in organic solvent, see below). Dissolution of PdCl₂ in IL **1** results in the formation of the complex shown in Scheme 2.



Scheme 2: Synthesis of *N*-butyronitrile pyridinium and their palladium complex.

Our exploratory experiments started with the coupling of 1-naphthalenesulfonyl chloride (1.5 mmol) with butyl acrylate (3.5 mmol) in the presence of PdCl₂ (1 mol%), Me(oct)₃NCl (15 mol%), and K₂CO₃ (2.25 mmol) in IL **1** (2 mL). All materials were handled in air although the reaction was subsequently conducted under a blanket of nitrogen. After 1.5 h at 140°C (cf. 4 h to achieve the same conversion in *m*-xylene in the presence of a phase transfer agent)⁹ the coupling product was extracted from IL **1** using diethyl ether. Starting material was not detected in the extract and the yield of the product (90%) was estimated by GC using an external standard. The IL was re-charged with starting materials (as

above) and after 2 h at 140 °C the product was isolated in 85% yield following extraction into diethyl ether. IL **1** was charged with further starting materials (third batch) and the reaction was repeated with only a slight decrease in catalytic activity.

The same reaction was conducted in the absence of Me(oct)₃NCl which resulted in the same catalytic activity.

Using these optimized conditions the desulfative coupling of electron-rich, electron-neutral and electron-poor sulfonyl chlorides with various olefins was conducted, see Table 1. We also prepared a 1,3-diene in the reaction of *trans*-β-styrenesulfonyl chloride with styrene under these conditions (Entry 10).

Table 1: Palladium-catalyzed desulfative Mizoroki-Heck-type reactions of various sulfonyl chlorides with terminal alkenes in IL **1**.

Entry	R	R ¹	Yield ^a
1	1-naphthyl	COO <i>n</i> Bu	90
2	1-naphthyl	Ph	80
3	4-methylphenyl	COO <i>n</i> Bu	75
4	4-methylphenyl	Ph	80
5	4-acetylphenyl	COO <i>n</i> Bu	70
6	4-methoxyphenyl	COO <i>n</i> Bu	75 ^b
7	3-cyanophenyl	COO <i>n</i> Bu	70 ^b
8	(4-trifluoromethyl)phenyl	SO ₂ Ph	50 ^b
9	trifluoromethyl	COO <i>n</i> Bu	35 ^c
10	(<i>E</i>)-PhCH=CH	Ph	90

^a Yields of coupling products determined by GC using diphenylmethane as a external standard (see general procedure). ^b at 140 °C for 3 h. ^c Using a microwave oven at 150 °C for 2 h.

TEM analysis of the IL solutions after catalysis reveals that palladium nanoparticles were formed during the process (Fig. 1). Transition metal nanoparticles have been implicated as catalysts or catalyst reservoirs in many reactions in ILs and often they can be isolated and/or reused.¹⁸ The palladium nanoparticles isolated from IL **1** have a narrow size disparity (1.5 to 4.5 nm), similar to those isolated following Stille C-C coupling reactions reported previously.¹⁶ As shown in Figure 1, three ILs employed in catalysis (entries 2, 5, and 7 from Table 1) were selected for TEM analysis. From the figure it is clear that the palladium nanoparticles are well

dispersed and separated; nanoparticle aggregates are not observed. Nanoparticle aggregation during a catalytic process in ILs has been observed previously,¹⁹ but with the nitrile functionalized IL **1**, no such detrimental effect was observed. TEM analysis of the ionic liquids taken after the first recycle shows that the palladium nanoparticles remain unchanged. It is not unreasonable to assume that the nitrile group on the IL provides a stabilizing effect. The EDX spectrum shows that nanoparticles are composed of palladium.

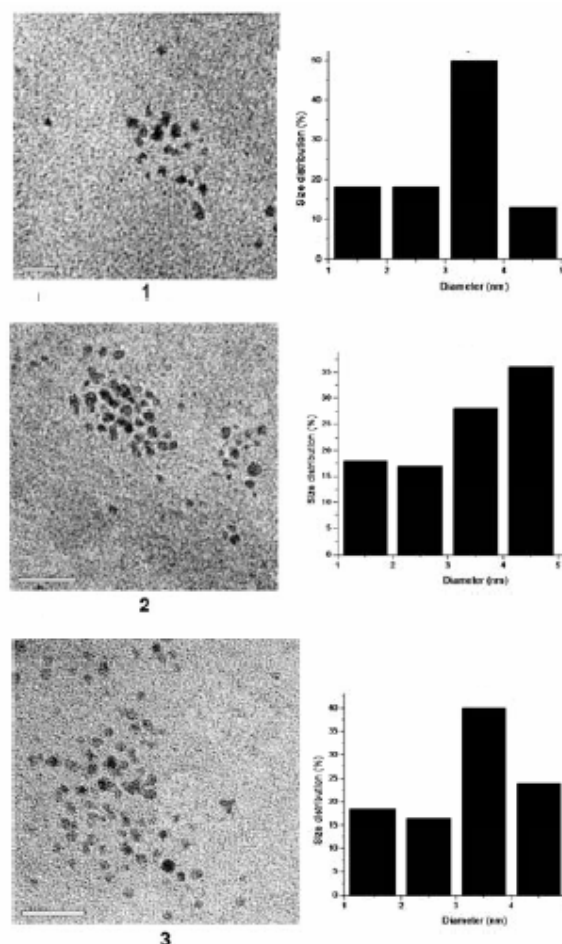


Figure 1. TEM images of nanoparticles in ionic liquids taken from catalytic system and graphs showing nanoparticle size distribution (**1** for entry 7, **2** for entry 5, and **3** for entry 7).

In conclusion, we have demonstrated for the first time that desulfative Mizoroki-Heck-type arylation of alkenes can be performed using sulfonyl chlorides in an IL. In addition, TEM analysis of nanoparticles extracted from the catalysis solution shows that palladium nanoparticles, which presumable act as catalyst reservoirs, are formed. It appears that a stabilizing effect on the nanoparticles is imparted by the nitrile-functionalised IL **1**. Such task-specific ionic liquids may well prove to be decisive in transferring ionic liquids from the laboratory to production scale processes in C-C bond forming reactions. The [C₃CNpy][Tf₂N] ionic liquid described

herein can be prepared from relatively inexpensive precursors, which provides further incentive for its deployment on a larger scale.

General procedure for desulfative palladium-catalyzed Mizoroki-Heck reaction of sulfonyl chlorides with monosubstituted olefins (refer to Table 1):

To a Schlenk tube, the sulfonyl chloride (1 equiv, 1.5 mmol), PdCl₂ (1 mol%, 0.015 mmol), K₂CO₃ (1.5 equiv, 2.25 mmol), Me(oct)₃NCl (15 mol%, 0.23 mmol) and IL **1** (2 mL) were added. After the mixture was flushed with nitrogen, the olefin (2.0 equiv, 3.0 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was heated at 140 °C for 1-2 h. After cooling to room temperature, the product was extracted with diethyl ether (3 × 15 mL). The combined extracts were washed with brine and water and then dried with Na₂SO₄. The coupling product was obtained after removal of solvent. An external standard (diphenylmethane, 0.6 mmol) was used for GC analysis. The ionic liquid phase was washed with diethyl ether and placed under vacuum of 18 h prior to the next catalytic cycle.

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Graphical Abstract:

